

WRAC Report May 4, 2006

Overview:

This report summarizes the **May 4, 2006** regular monthly meeting of the WRAC.

WRAC Issues Workshops were held during April as follows:

- April 17: WRAC/Acceler8 Issues Workshop, Site 1 Impoundment Basis of Design Report, Boca Raton
- April 19: WRAC Issues Workshop, Kissimmee Basin Water Supply Plan, Kissimmee
- April 20: WRAC Issues Workshop, Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan, Miami
- April 24: WRAC Issues Workshop, Lower West Coast Water Supply Plan, Ft. Myers
- April 25: WRAC Issues Workshop, Upper East Coast Water Supply Plan, Ft. Pierce

The Lake Okeechobee Committee met on April 26 in LaBelle. The Committee report with a draft "Options" paper attached has been posted to <http://my.sfwmd.gov/wrac>, "Reports & Documents."

The May 4, 2006 WRAC Meeting agenda items included:

- Lake Okeechobee Committee Report
- Lake Okeechobee – Status of Hoover Dike
- Water Supply Plans Update
- Acceler8 Update
- Long Term Plan to Improve Water Quality – Non-Everglades Construction Program (ECP) Basins Update
- SFWMD FY 2006 Strategic Plan Update

Results:

- SFWMD will work with the Corps of Engineers, the Florida Department of Community Affairs, Division of Emergency Management and local officials to address the Hoover Dike studies and emergency planning issues.
- SFWMD will conduct a feasibility study about the use of deep well injection technology at Lake Okeechobee.
- SFWMD will look into any permitting issues regarding maintaining the S-12 structures along Tamiami Trail and quickly resolve any SFWMD issues.
- **Recommended future WRAC and Lake Okeechobee Committee agenda items:**
 - Agricultural "Best Management Practices" rule revisions (Lake Okeechobee Committee).
 - Water Storage in the Everglades – Summary of "Committee on Restoration of the Greater Everglades Ecosystem (CROGEE)" Report (Lake Okeechobee Committee and WRAC)

- Supply Side Management/Forward Pumps Issues (Lake Okeechobee Committee)
- Lake Okeechobee “WSE” Regulation Schedule Revisions – Tentatively Selected Plan (Lake Okeechobee Committee and WRAC).
- Lake Okeechobee and Estuary Recovery Plan and Lake Okeechobee Protection Plan Update (Lake Okeechobee Committee)
- Site 1 Impoundment Acceler8 project phasing will be discussed by SFWMD staff with guidance from the Governing Board.
- **Discussion:**
 - **Lake Okeechobee:**
 - Eagle Bay, north of the lake, will be a test site to demonstrate spot dredging feasibility.
 - The committee heard an excellent presentation about Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) and deep well injection. Because of the many issues to be resolved, and timeframes for ASR, the feasibility of deep well injection should be determined as soon as possible.
 - Comment: The committee heard a presentation about deep well injection for the first time on 4/26, so there is not consensus about it at this time.
 - **Lake Okeechobee Hoover Dike Status:**
 - The Florida Department of Community Affairs, Division of Emergency Management has been asked by Governor Bush to do an emergency evacuation plan and the Corps of Engineers has been asked to repair the dike as soon as possible.
 - The Governor has asked that the State and the Corps of Engineers work with local officials on these issues.
 - Impact of revisions to the Lake Okeechobee Water Level Regulation Schedule “WSE” on the dike need to be determined.
 - **Water Supply Plans Update:**
 - Discussion about protection of source water for Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands restoration in the context of agreements with Miami-Dade County for wastewater reuse.
 - SFWMD Governing Board directed last year that all new sources of water would be from alternative water supply sources.
 - Need policy discussion about best ways to recharge the Biscayne Aquifer.
 - Comment that south Florida communities also need to reduce demand through better landscape irrigation practices, etc.

- **“Acceler8 Update:**
 - WRAC was urged by citizens to support building entire impoundment (vs. one-half of the area as proposed) because of development and road construction plans, and to include boat ramps in the design of the project.
- **SFWMD FY 2006 Strategic Plan Update:**
 - Comment that the plan needs to emphasize Biscayne and Florida Bays. The SFWMD Governing Board may consider adding a placeholder to the plan for this issue.
 - Need to broaden Lake Okeechobee and Estuary Recovery Plan (included in the Strategic Plan) to provide more storage and treatment for Lake Okeechobee water.
- **Future Meetings:**
 - **May 19, Lake Okeechobee Technical Sub-Committee**, 10 – 3 p.m., Governing Board Chambers, B-1, West Palm Beach
 - **May 22, Recreation Issues Workshop**, 4 -7 p.m., Storch Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Building B-1, West Palm Beach
 - **May 30, WRAC Lake Okeechobee Committee Field Trip**, Martin Marina, Clewiston, FL
 - **May 31, WRAC Lake Okeechobee Committee Meeting**, John Boy Auditorium, Clewiston
 - **June 1, WRAC/Acceler8 Issues Workshop, C-111 Spreader Canal, Phase 1, Basis of Design Report**, County Extension Service Offices, Homestead, FL
 - **June 7, WRAC Field Trip**, place and times to be announced.
 - **June 8, WRAC Meeting**, J.W. Marriott, 1109 Brickell Ave., Miami, FL (tentative).